

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An optical lens comprising:

an optical material comprising an SiC single crystal having a cubic structure;

a conical objective surface; and

a convex spherical surface formed opposite said conical objective surface,

wherein the center of the uppermost portion of the lens does not extend beyond a radius of the convex spherical surface from the center of the lowermost portion of the lens.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A condenser lens comprising:

a first optical lens comprising an optical material comprising an SiC single crystal having a cubic structure; and

a second optical lens positioned between said first optical lens and an objective surface so that the optical axes of said first and second optical lenses are in line with each other,

wherein said first optical lens further comprises a conical objective surface and a convex spherical surface formed opposite said conical objective surface, and

wherein the center of the uppermost portion of the lens does not extend beyond a radius of the convex spherical surface from the center of the lowermost portion of the lens.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An optical pickup comprising:

a light source; and

a condenser lens configured to converge light emitted from said light source to form a beam spot, said condenser lens comprising a first optical lens and a second optical lens positioned between said first optical lens and an objective surface so that the optical axes of said first and second optical lenses are in line with each other,

wherein said first optical lens comprises an optical material comprising an SiC single crystal having a cubic structure, a conical objective surface, and a convex spherical surface formed opposite said conical objective surface, and

wherein the center of the uppermost portion of the lens does not extend beyond a radius of the convex spherical surface from the center of the lowermost portion of the lens.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Original): An optical pickup according to claim 4, wherein the wavelength of said light emitted from said light source is longer than 564 nm.

Claim 7 (Original): An optical pickup according to claim 4, wherein said light source comprises a semiconductor laser.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): An optical recording/reproducing apparatus comprising:

an optical pickup including a light source and a condenser lens configured to converge light emitted from said light source to form a beam spot, said condenser lens including a first optical lens and a second optical lens positioned between said first optical lens and an objective surface so that the optical axes of said first and second optical lenses are in line with each other; and

control drive means for controllably driving said condenser lens in a focusing direction and/or a tracking direction of an optical recording medium,

wherein said first optical lens comprises an optical material comprising an SiC single crystal having a cubic structure, a conical objective surface, and a convex spherical surface formed opposite said conical objective surface, and

wherein the center of the uppermost portion of the lens does not extend beyond a radius of the convex spherical surface from the center of the lowermost portion of the lens.

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Original): An optical recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the wavelength of said light emitted from said light source is longer than 564 nm.

Claim 11 (Original): An optical recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said light source comprises a semiconductor laser.

Claim 12 (Original): An optical recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the light beam of said light emitted from said light source has an optical axis substantially parallel to the principal surface of said optical recording medium.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): An optical recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

means for mounting a plurality of optical recording media spaced from each other, wherein the spacing between adjacent ones of said optical recording media is larger than the diameter of the light beam of said light emitted from said light source.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): An optical lens comprising:
an optical material comprising an SiC single crystal having a cubic structure;
a stepped objective surface; and
a convex spherical surface formed opposite said stepped objective surface.